

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 14, 2004, claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, 14-16, 18, and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over U.S. Patent No. 5,755,036 (Lewis); claims 7, 17, and 19 were rejected under § 103 over Lewis; and claims 2, 3, 12, and 13 were rejected under § 103 over Lewis in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,246,826 (O'Keefe).

Applicant acknowledges the indication that claims 8 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 8 and 20 have been amended from dependent form to independent form, with the scope of each claim remaining *unchanged*. Allowance of claims 8 and 20 is requested.

Independent claims 1 and 10 have been cancelled, without prejudice, to render the rejection of the claims moot.

Independent claim 9 has been amended to recite a system including a light source having plural light emitters each to produce light to illuminate a target area, and a light attenuator having plural blocking elements for blocking a portion of the produced light from each light emitter. Claim 9 also recites a guide for positioning the light attenuator in a registration position with respect to the light source so that a portion of the produced light from each light emitter is blocked from the target area and the unblocked light from each light emitter illuminates the target area to achieve a desired illumination pattern.

Claim 9 is not disclosed by Lewis. Specifically, Lewis does not disclose a light source having plural light emitters each to produce light to illuminate a target area, in combination with a light attenuator having plural blocking elements for blocking a portion of the produced light from each light emitter, where unblocked light from each light emitter illuminates the target area to achieve a desired illumination pattern.

Lewis describes a compass that has a slotted disk (14 in Fig. 1) between a light source 40 and a diffuse reflector 48. There is no teaching of the light source having a plurality of light emitters, nor is there is any teaching of a light attenuator having plural blocking elements, where unblocked light from each light emitter illuminates the target area to achieve a desired illumination pattern. None of the other embodiments disclosed in Figs. 3-15 of Lewis teach the combination of the light source and light attenuator as recited in claim 9.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Lewis does not anticipate claim 9. Claims dependent from claim 9 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Moreover, with respect to dependent claim 25, Lewis fails to disclose a lens to focus light from the light emitters onto the target area, and a detector to detect light reflected from the target area. As depicted in Fig. 1, there is no lens that focuses a light from the light source 40 onto the diffuse reflector 48 (target area).

With respect to claim 26, which depends from claim 9, Lewis fails to further disclose first and second light sources, where the second light source illuminates a second portion of the target area, and where substantially no light from the first light source illuminates the second portion of the target area.

With respect to dependent claim 27, which depends from claim 9, Lewis fails to further disclose a cartridge-engaging assembly movable to plural positions to engage corresponding plural data cartridges, where the light source and light attenuator are mounted to the cartridge-engaging assembly. Lewis, which describes a compass, does not teach any form of cartridge-engaging assembly.

Claim 28, which also depends from claim 9, is further allowable over Lewis because Lewis fails to disclose a bar code reader, where the light source is part of the bar code reader, and the target area comprises a bar code onto which the light source emits light.

Lewis also does not disclose the subject matter of claim 11. Specifically, Lewis fails to disclose a system for illuminating a target area on a data cartridge with a desired illumination pattern, where the system includes a *cartridge-engaging assembly* positionable adjacent the *data cartridge*. As discussed above, Lewis teaches a compass that has a slotted disk 14 with a magnet to enable rotation of the slotted disk with respect to an external magnetic field. There is absolutely no teaching whatsoever in Lewis of the cartridge-engaging assembly positionable adjacent a data cartridge recited in claim 11. The Office Action identified the detector 50 (in Fig. 1 of Lewis) as being the data cartridge, and the "inner housing" that holds the detector as being the cartridge-engaging assembly. 12/14/2004 Office Action at 4. This reading of the detector as being the data cartridge, and the housing holding the detector as being the cartridge-engaging assembly, is based on an unreasonable construction of the terms "data cartridge" and "cartridge-engaging assembly" recited in claim 11. As described by Lewis, the

detector 50 is used for detecting diffuse reflection from the diffuse reflector 48. Lewis, 10:11-18. A light detector for detecting reflected light cannot constitute a data cartridge, and any housing for holding this light detector cannot constitute a cartridge-engaging assembly.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 11 is also not anticipated by Lewis.

Dependent claims of claim 11 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Moreover, dependent claim 31 further recites the cartridge-engaging assembly as being adapted to withdraw the data cartridge from a cartridge-receiving device. There is no such cartridge-engaging in the compass of Lewis.

Moreover, with respect to claim 15, Lewis fails to disclose a lens to focus light emitted by the light source onto a target area, in combination with a detector to detect light reflected from the target area. The Office Action identified the collimator 52 in Lewis as being the lens, and the detector 50 as being the target area. In view of the addition of the detector element to claim 15, the detector 50 cannot be considered the target area – rather, the target area in Fig. 1 of Lewis is the diffuse reflector 48 – however, there is no lens for focusing light from the light source 40 onto the diffuse reflector 48. Therefore, claim 15 is not anticipated by Lewis for this additional reason.

With respect to claim 29, which further depends from claim 11, Lewis does not teach a light source having plural light emitting elements, and a light attenuator having plural light blocking elements to attenuate emitted light from respective light emitting elements, and the light attenuator having a support member to which are attached the light blocking elements.

With respect to claim 30, which depends from claim 11, Lewis fails to further disclose the light source having plural light emitting elements and the light attenuator having plural light blocking elements to attenuate emitted light from respective light emitting elements, where the light source has a substrate onto which the light emitting elements are formed, and the light attenuator is attached to the substrate.

Independent claim 18 is also allowable over Lewis, which fails to disclose positioning a cartridge-engaging assembly adjacent to a data cartridge. See remarks above with respect to claim 11. Therefore, claim 18 is not anticipated by Lewis.

Dependent claims of claim 18 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Moreover, with respect to claim 32, Lewis does not teach that positioning the cartridge-engaging assembly

comprises moving the cartridge-engaging assembly from a first position adjacent a second data cartridge to a second position adjacent a first data cartridge. Lewis, which relates to a compass, fails to disclose any form of a cartridge-engaging assembly.

Moreover, with respect to claim 33, which depends from claim 18, Lewis fails to teach reading indicia in the target area based on illuminating the target area with the light source, *where the indicia identifies the data cartridge*. Lewis teaches a diffuse reflector 48 (see Fig. 1) or a fluorescent source 148 (see Fig. 3) – however, neither the diffuse reflector 48 nor fluorescent source 148 of Lewis contains indicia that identifies a data cartridge.

With respect to claim 34, which depends from claim 18, Lewis fails to disclose reading, by a bar code reader, a bar code in the target area based on illuminating the target area with the light source. There is no teaching whatsoever of a bar code reader or a bar code in Lewis.

In view of the allowability of base claims over Lewis, it is respectfully submitted that the obviousness rejections of claims 2, 3, 12, 13, 17, and 19 have been overcome.

In view of the foregoing, all claims are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025 (10019544-1).

Respectfully submitted,

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